REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 and 14-17 are pending in the present application. No claims have been added, amended or canceled by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-10 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Bartholomay et al. in view of Cookman et al., which is respectfully traversed.

In the previously filed amendment, comments were presented that the applied art did not teach or suggest a CPU separately connected to the slave logic, the data-FIFO and the length-FIFO, and thus could not achieve the advantages of the present invention. In response to these comments, the Office Action indicates that the features, upon which Applicant relies (i.e., "a CPU separately connected to the FIFO the slave-logic and the data FIFO") are not recited in the rejected claims. However, it is respectfully noted the previously filed Amendment did in fact amend the independent claims to include these features. For example, independent claim 1 was previously amended to recite that the CPU is separately connected to the slave-logic, the data-FIFO and the length-FIFO and is configured to continuously read the data stored in the data-FIFO as much as the data read from the length-FIFO when its interrupt signal is inputted from the slave-logic. Independent claims 6 and 10 include similar features in a varying scope.

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Further, as noted in the previous Amendment, according to the present invention, the

inter-processor communication apparatus has a simplified construction including the claimed

length-FIFO, the CPU, the data-FIFO and the slave-logic. That is, as shown in Figure 2, for

example, the apparatus includes a simple structure, which reduces the cost of the apparatus

and allows for simplified repairs. For example, the CPU 102 in Figure 2 can be easily be

replaced without having to also replace the slave-logic 104 or other items, because the CPU

102 is separately connected to the other components.

On the contrary, as shown in Figure 1 of Bartholomay et al., the apparatus is

extremely complex and does not include a CPU that is separately connected to a slave-logic,

a data-FIFO and a length-FIFO as in the present invention. Note the previous Office

Action indicated the host controller corresponds to the claimed slave-logic and CPU, the

message length register 16 corresponds to the claimed length-FIFO, and the FIFO 12

corresponds to the claimed data-FIFO. However, comparing the structure shown in Figure

2 of the present invention with the structure shown in Figure 1 of Bartholomay et al., it can

be seen that the device of Figure 2 of the present invention is greatly simplified. Cookman et
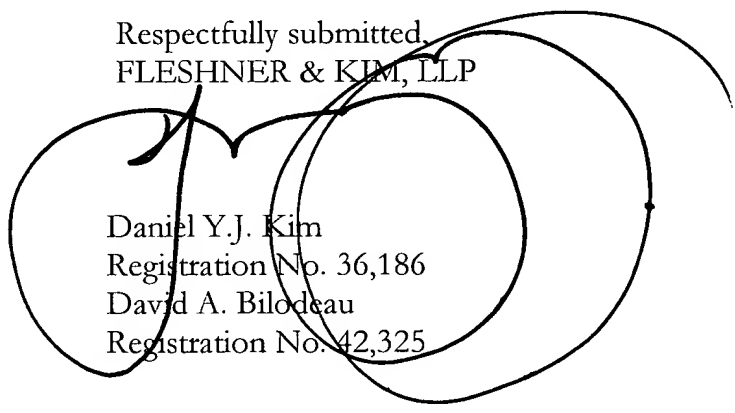
al. also does not teach or suggest the claimed features.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 6 and 10 and each of

the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Daniel Y.J. Kim**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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